THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra had constituted a Netgotiating Committee with regard to the Dabhol Power Project. The Government of India is not a party to the Power Purchase Agreement signed between Maharashtra State Electricity Board and the Dabhol Power Company. However, Government of India has agreed to facilitate amicable settlement of the various issues surrounding the project and had accordingly appointed Shri A.V. Gokak, retired Secretary to the Government of India, as its nominee on the said Committee. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra. Meanwhile, there have been certain disputes between Dabhol Power Company and Maharashtra State Electricity Board with reference to the Power Purchase Agreement and both parties have initiated legal proceedings against each other.

The financial institutions lead by the Industrial Development Bank of India, who have substantial stake in the Dabhol project, have been discussing the matter with all concerned parties in an effort to restructure and revive the project and to make it viable. Among other efforts the financial institutions are trying to re-start phase-I of the project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Demand for withdrawal of Electricity Bill, 2002

844. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Power Engineers Association has asked the Government to withdraw the Electricity Bill, 2002, otherwise Association would go on a nation-wide agitation

(b) whether the above association has demanded that Government should not go for privatization in power sector because it would not be in the interest of power consumers of the country; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001, it was resolved *inter alia,* that commercial viability has to

be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

— Creating profit centres with full accountability;

— Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local bodies/ Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary;

— Privatisation of distribution;

— Or any other means.

The Electricity Bill, 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.8.2001 and was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

Setting up Electricity Regulatory Commissions

845. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States, which have set-up Electricity Regulatory Commissions;

(b) the States which have revised their tariffs based on the recommendations of these Commissions;

(c) the pre-revised and revised tariff rates of these States;

(d) the reasons for delay in adopting revised power tariff by other States; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Fifteen State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are functional in the States of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. Of these twelve SERCs namely those of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have issued tariff orders.

(c) The State-wise details of consumer category-wise tariff as on April, 1998 and December, 2001 are given in Annexure-I & II respectively. [See Appendix 196, Annexure No. 12]

(d) and (e) In the MoUs signed with the Government of India the States have committed to constitute SERCs. Some States have revised tariffs pending constitution/operationalisation of these SERCs.